CONCORD JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB
1958 – 2008

WELCOMES

50th Anniversary Dinner

21st June 2008

LA MIRAGE FUNCTION CENTRE, FIVE DOCK

Menu and Program

ON ARRIVAL

Pre-Dinner Drinks served with mixed Canapes

COLD ENTREE

Mixed Antipasto Per Person
Selection of Marinated Mediterranean Delicacies and Cold Meats served on mesculine salad

Seafood Salad – Platter
Medley of Seafood infused with Traditional Vinaigarette

Garlic Bread & Fried Olives
Toasted slices of continental bread with scrapings of garlic butter and herbs

PRESENTATIONS

HOT ENTREE

Mix Pasta: Tortellini Boscaiola & Penne Alla Napoletana
Combination of Pasta parcels with special filling and Penne with fresh Napoletana sauce

MAIN COURSE (Alternate Servings)

Veal Scalloppine Mushroom Sauce

Tender Veal served on seasonal Vegetables and mash potatoes with Mushroom Sauce

OR

Grilled Chicken Breast Fillet

Served with delicious Sundried tomato Sauce.

Served with vegetables and mash potato

SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

DESSERT

Anniversary Cake

Seasonal Fruit Platter per Table

Espresso Coffee & Chocolates

BEVERAGES

Beer, Wine, Unoaked Chardonnay & Shiraz Cabernet Merlot, and Soft Drinks.

Dancing till midnight – enjoy the evening!!

President's Message

Concord Junior Soccer Club welcomes you to the celebration dinner for its 50th anniversary.

Changes in any organisation are inevitable and Concord JSC has undergone a lot of changes over the last 50 years. Many past and present members would remember when:

- the ladies on the committee would sew the players shirts. Now, the Club sends an email and orders 700 playing strips.
- a committee member would cart blocks of ice to the park to keep food and drinks cold. Now, we use a commercial size refrigerator to store 60 cartons of drinks plus eggs, bacon & sausages.
- the Club used to produce a weekly newsletter printed on an old gestetner. Now, the news items are uploaded onto the Concord JSC website for easy and immediate access to all.
- there were not many girls playing soccer. Now, there are six teams playing in the girls only competitions and many others playing in the mixed competitions of the younger age-groups.

Other changes included:

- the introduction of a grading policy in the early 1990s
- Incorporation of the Concord JSC in 1992
- The introduction of the position of Competition Secretary in 1994
- the introduction of many new policies and procedures such as the Privacy Policy; Smoking Policy; Complaints Policy and Procedures; as well as the many codes of conduct for players, parents, spectators and officials.
- the introduction of the position of Member Protection Officer in 2005
- the introduction of the Concord JSC website in 2006
- the introduction of the Concord JSC Disciplinary Committee in 2007
- the introduction of Small Sided Games for under 6 teams in 2008

What has not changed, however, is the Concord community spirit, the popularity of soccer and the dedication of the many volunteers who ensure that the Club keeps operating. Concord JSC is not an elitist Club, it offers the youth in the community the opportunity to play soccer regardless of ability. Over the years, Concord JSC has had many successes and won many premierships but the Club has always kept its community identity. This community identity and spirit remains unchanged.

Over the years, many volunteers have given up their time freely for the Club, which would not have been possible without the support and assistance of their families:

The coaches – who help improve the skills, teamwork and attitude of the players.

The managers – who provide support to the coach and who follow up all the administrative duties.

The committees – who perform an administrative and practical role to ensure that players are able to play and enjoy their soccer.

Some of these volunteers were players in the Club when they were younger, others the family of committee members or players. Some returned to the Club as the coaches or managers of their children's teams or other teams. Some accepted a position on the committee or simply just came back home to Concord JSC.

Australian soccer is 150 years old this year and the Canterbury District Soccer Football Association, with which we are affiliated, is over 80 years old. We have been part of soccer history for 50 of these years and it is with great confidence that we look towards the next 50 years. There will no doubt be challenges in the future but we have strong foundations that were established by our predecessors and this strength will guide us towards a very successful future.

Thank you to all of our members, past and present, who have been part of the Concord Junior Soccer Club journey over the last 50 years. The club's journey is not yet finished and for many, the journey has only just begun.

Angela Lukas – June, 2008

CONCORD JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB

The Early History of Football in Concord

Football has been a popular sport in Australia since the mid-19th century. However, it was not until 1924 that the original Concord Soccer Football Club was formed. The clear focus of this early club was to have its senior team play at the highest level of football available. Whilst junior teams were later to form an important part of this club the initial emphasis was, clearly, to support and foster talent at a senior level.

Originally, the club played at Central Park in Wellbank Street until Concord Council managed to re-claim the "pestidential, mosquito-filled, tidal swamp" area alongside Brewer Street. In 1932 the newly constructed parkland was set aside for the use of the Concord Soccer Football Club and was named after Alderman J. Edwards who had helped to form the original club back in 1924.

This Club achieved considerable success throughout the 1920's and 1930's competing in competitions at State League level. A break for a number of years over the period of World War II saw the club re-emerge as the Concord and District Soccer Football Club in 1945 and, again, play top-level football at State League and Metropolitan competitions. The 1948 fixtures list saw matches being played against teams from Gladesville-Ryde, Bankstown, Auburn, Pyrmont-Balmain, St George, British Ex-Imperial and NSW Police.

As well as a successful senior team the club was, at this stage, beginning to place an emphasis on fielding junior teams in various competitions. In 1946 the Concord and District Soccer Football Club fielded two under 12, one under 14 and one under 16 teams. These teams played in the West Sydney Soccer Football association which catered only for junior teams. Other junior clubs in the local area at the time were Arnotts, AGL company, Concord Baptists, Concord West Methodists, North Strathfield Presbyterian and Bergers. During the late 1940's the club fielded teams in three different associations: the Metropolitan League, the Canterbury S.F.A and the West Sydney S.F.A.

There were many people involved in the Club during this period in both a playing capacity and an organisational role. Names such as John Morton, Herbert Gilmour, George Liddell, Keith Gilmour, James Brown, Ken Knowlson, F. Norton, G. Anderson, H. Dening, J. Downham, J. Ellis, A. Forrester, J. Geekie, D. Purdie, S. Bachell, Danny Abercrombie, Terry Wakeham, William Johnston and many others formed the back-bone of a sporting and social outlet in the developing municipality of Concord. The club was ably supported by an active and energetic Ladies Auxiliary involving Mrs Knowlson, Miss Lodge, Mrs Bachell, Mrs Garrick, Mrs Hawkshaw, Mrs Norton, Mrs Maynard, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Wakeham and Misses Barton and May.

Despite the Club having a successful history, in 1955 the senior team was bought out by the German-based Concordia Club (est. 1883) situated at Stanmore. Concordia were keen to field soccer football teams in the highest divisions of the NSW State League. It should be noted that the colours of the Concordia club were the same as that of the original Concord Club – White with Black trim – and those colours remained throughout the next 40 years whilst ever Concordia fielded teams in the NSW State League divisions.

Concord & DSFA 1947

CONCORD & DISTRICT S.F.C.

Metropolitan 1st Grade Premiers, 1947.

Back row, left to right: A. Forrester (Selector), D. Abercrombie, J. Allen, R. Hawkshaw, J. Neil, S. Bachell, A. Knowlson, J. Downham (Selector), J. Brown (Trainer).
Middle row, kneeling: J. Morton (President), K. Knowlson, J. Geekie, K. Irving, H. L. Gilmour (Vice-Pres.—Treas.), K. Gilmour (Hon. Secretary).
Front row, sitting: F. Norton (Captain), Brian Norton (Mascot), W. Johnson, T. Wakeham.

The Fifty Years of Concord Junior Soccer Club

In 1958 a group of interested parents and local football enthusiasts met to form Concord Junior Soccer Club. Many of those who became involved in the newly formed junior club had previous playing and administration experience with the Concord and District Soccer Football Club. It was no coincidence that the home ground for the new club was Edwards Park, that the colours of the new club were Black and White, nor that the chief administration officer was Club Secretary Mr George Liddell with his brother Doug as Treasurer. Even the early versions of the Club constitution closely mirrored the 1947 constitution of the previous senior club.

Very soon familiar names were appearing on the team sheets of the Concord Junior Soccer Club as the relatives and off-spring of previous generations of football followers were again gracing Edwards Park in the traditional Black and White strip. Children with names such as Liddell, Wakeham, Abercrombie, Robertson, Knight and many others were able to trace their footballing heritage back to the original Concord and District Soccer Football Club. Indeed, the first premiership for Concord JSC was won in 1961 by the Under 12's captained by a young Tom Liddell whose grandfather had been a Vice-President of the Concord and District Soccer Football Club prior to World War II.

Whilst the links to the previous club were well-established, some important differences were of note:

- There was now a pure emphasis on junior rather than senior football. The Club consisted of two junior teams in its first year and, indeed, the Club existed for many years before senior teams were fielded on a regular basis.
- The formation of Western Suburbs District Soccer Football Association by clubs such as Concord JSC, Abbotsford SC and Five Dock SC enabled teams to play locally and lay a sound foundation for the establishment of a licensed club at Five Dock and the formation of a senior semi-professional team competing at the highest level.
- The emblem of the club was now the handshake across the soccer ball. This was designed to establish a symbolic link between the Concord Municipal Council, whose emblem was the handshake, and the sport of soccer. The emblem of the Concord DSFA had previously been the "Scottish Thistle".

The Early Days

The first President of Concord JSC, Mr Lerryn Mutton, did not attend the inaugural meeting of a handful of parents interested in establishing a sporting outlet for their children. However, he was elected President in absentia and served in that role for eight years. As a long serving alderman and mayor on Concord Council Lerryn was able to advance the interests of both the club and the municipality through these dual roles.

George Liddell served as the founding secretary and was still heavily involved as President through to 1969. George's brother, Doug, was the original club treasurer and managed to provide a sound financial base from which the club could grow and prosper.

The numbers of teams playing each year continued to expand. The very first teams played in white shirts and black shorts. The shirts were a mixture of t-shirts and collared shirts - anything as long as it was white. After a few years the Ladies Auxiliary began to make sets of shirts for each team in the traditional white with black trim and they, even, included numbers on the back.

Concord U11 – 1960

Early Days continued ...

The 1960's

By 1965 the Club fielded 17 teams and by 1969 this number had grown to be twenty-five ensuring that the club was well and truly established. The amenities block was built on Edwards Park to accommodate what was now one of the largest sporting bodies in the municipality. In those days Edwards Park Number 1 field ran parallel to the Golf course and had the cricket pitch exactly in its centre. For a while, teams of junior players could be seen each Saturday morning after their games spreading the mounds of coffee beans that had been dumped on the ground by arrangement with the Bushell's company. Slowly the deviations were smoothed out, the pot holes disappeared and Edwards Park developed into a fine local sporting facility.

Under the watchful eye of club Treasurer, Gordon Black, Number 2 field was developed in the early 1960's and ran parallel to Wellbank Street. It had one goalmouth very close to the paling fence at the tennis court end of the field and was considered the smaller field for the younger teams. It must be remembered that there were no mini-fields in the 1960's and the youngest age groups still played 11-a-side on a full field with a full-size ball. The entire parkland was also shared with a Pigeon Racing Club, two netball courts and the Concord Women's Bowling Club which was situated on the Brewer street side of the park. For a number of years bi-annual visits to Cessnock were organised to play against our country cousins from the Newcastle coalfields. As well, three or four gala days were held on various Sundays through the year at places as far away as Lithgow. All competition matches were held on Saturday with Sunday still rarely used so as not to invade upon the Sabbath. Players paid their twenty cents per week to the team manager as match fees to save families from any financial hardship that may have been caused through the payment of large registration fees at the beginning of the season. The first of the weekly Club Newsletters was published on 10th April 1965 with successive volumes running for the next 41 years until replaced by the Concord JSC Website.

Administrators such as Gordon Black, Doug McAllister and Keith Hamill ensured the smooth running of the Club whilst their sons participated in the highest level of soccer available in the local area. The vision of such men for the development of the game of soccer was clearly evidenced in the public meeting called by Doug McAllister, then secretary of Concord JSC, in Strathfield Park in 1968. Doug called this meeting to initiate the formation of the Strathfield Soccer Club which is happily celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

The 1970's

As the early founders of the Club completed their tenure others stepped forward to take their place and continue their good work. New families arrived to participate in the sport of soccer and indulge in the friendly atmosphere of a confident, established, community club. Committeemen

Concord WSJSA Under 11 – Premiers 1965

Concord U14 – 1962 (top)
Concord JSC U18 – 1972 (bottom)

such as Laurie Palmer, Barry Wood, Ron Tonkin and George Grierson ensured a smooth transition into the next decade. The club also benefitted during these years from the knowledge and expertise imparted by many fine and dedicated coaches. Of particular note were three former internationals Harry Robertson, Doug Harvey and Jock McMahon who, along with others such as early life member Alan Beauchamp, ensured the highest standard of coaching was available to the local players. The Club has been fortunate that the many hundreds of coaches that have trained teams through the years have continued to provide similar expert tuition in both the skills and the spirit of the game that these fine gentlemen initiated.

During this time it became obvious to the clubs belonging to the Western Suburbs District Soccer Football Association that the number of teams being formed each year were not enough to provide for a meaningful competition in many age-groups. It was for this reason that the club joined forces with various other associations to ensure a depth of competition. Concord JSC had teams playing in combined competitions with Northern Suburbs Association, Gladesville-Hornsby Association, Bankstown Association, Canterbury Association, Lakemba Mini-Association and the Sydney Amateur League.

It was around the mid-1970's that the Number 1 field on Edwards Park was turned around to run parallel to Brewer street. This reduced the impact of the cricket pitch, that had previously been situated in the middle of the field, and made serious injury less likely. It also enabled the club to create a mini-field for the under 6's and 7's by sliding Edwards Number 2 field thirty metres further towards the golf course. With mini-soccer came smaller fields and smaller balls aimed at assisting the younger players to learn proper ball techniques as early as possible. The second dressing shed was built by Concord Council in 1979.

By now the Club had been in existence for over twenty years. Throughout this time the support network of committees such as the Ladies Auxiliary, the property and gear, the canteen and social, the pre-season and gala day, the publicity and news provided invaluable assistance to the office bearers of the day and generally ensured substantial numbers of committee persons would be on hand to fill vacancies as they occurred amongst the Executive committee. Many of the life members and award recipients from this era did not necessarily hold high office in the club but were, instead, tireless workers in one or more of these groups.

The 1980's

The numbers of teams in the club varied between 25 and 30 per season for much of this decade. The stability at the committee level was provided by the long term involvement of members like Harris Johnston, Cyril Rose, Jim Archibald and Ray Kane. All these men had numerous family members involved with the club and each provided long and strong leadership over many years not only within Concord JSC but also within Canterbury & District SFA and Lakemba Mini-Association . As well, Steve Stone and Larry Bittman, both of whom had played with the club for many years in junior and then senior teams, each served three years on the senior executive. These two fellows were the first ex-players of Concord JSC to contribute their time at senior executive level. With many other ex-

Concord Federation Square – 1989

players serving as coaches and managers of junior teams, the Club's future remained in a sound position.

This decade was also significant as it saw the junior players of the 1960's and 1970's mature onto a broader stage and compete in the highest level of soccer available. Having won many championships in the Sydney Amateur League during the mid-to-late 1970's the Club decided to enter the squad into the NSW State League Inter Urban 5th division in 1982. For the next 12 seasons the First and Reserve grade teams climbed their way through seven divisions of quality opposition and earned the right to compete in the 2nd division State League. Quality senior football was once again seen on Edwards Park and, no doubt, mirrored the atmosphere of the earlier Post-War Teams with crowds of over one thousand people lining the hill and sidelines of Edwards Park. Long term club members such as Jeff Taylor, as coach, and Rocky Massaria, as Manager, guided this squad for nearly twenty years to the pinnacle of success.

The 1990's

An experienced team of club stalwarts led Concord JSC into the 1990's. People like Cyril Rose, Rocky Massaria, Michael Doherty, Jim Archibald and Marina Smith provided a solid backbone from which the club could continue to expand. All of these people had been involved in the Club in various capacities for many years and the growth of the Club to over 40 teams during this period was facilitated by the commitment and dedication displayed by such committee persons and their many colleagues. In accordance with newly introduced state legislation of the time Concord JSC was incorporated in 1992.

Substantial growth in the under 6's and 7's reflected the new trend of young families moving back into Concord. More mini-fields were introduced to accommodate this demand for playing space. Simultaneously, during this time the Over 35's competitions began to grow in popularity. With its wealth of ex-players Concord JSC performed very well at this level. The majority of the players at over 35's level had been local juniors and had maintained their association with the Club and their love of the sport through three decades of involvement.

Unfortunately, the State League squad was disbanded in the mid-1990's. The burden of the increasing financial pressure required to compete at such a high level of soccer proved beyond the capacity of even a large junior club. It should be noted that the federation squad had always operated as an independent financial concern so as not to drain the junior club of valuable resources.

Not the best way to play!

The new Millennium

Growth continued unabated for the Club after the turn of the century. In 2007 over sixty teams were fielded in various competitions from under 6's through to All-Age, over 35's and the Club's now growing contingent of girls/ladies teams. Our current executive members have been guiding the club through much of this period. People like Terry Jones, Marina Smith and today's President, Angela Lukas, have all contributed to the Club over a substantial period of time.

The Club's most recent innovation for its players has been the introduction of Small-Sided Games (SSG) for the under 6's in 2008. Under direction from Football Federation Australia and Football NSW the Club has successfully implemented the action plan aimed at increasing the technical abilities of our youngest players whilst ensuring that fun is an integral part of the learning equation. Terry Jones has overseen the introduction of this radical improvisation and the success has been plain for all to see. The long-term plan is for this SSG coaching philosophy to be implemented one age-group per year until in five years time the under 12's will be playing a nine-a-side game on smaller fields in a non-competition environment.

On any weekend in winter Concord JSC can be seen operating on Edwards Park from early morning until dusk. In any weekend well-over a thousand people will visit the park to support the players from Concord JSC and the many local opposition teams. The fact that this has been happening for decades pays tribute to the contribution that this organisation has made to the broader community. Concord JSC is one of the oldest clubs in the local area and has much of which to be proud.

U14 – 2007

Over 35 – 2007

The Future for Concord JSC

Over the half century since its inception the success of the Club has been driven by two factors;

1. the enthusiasm of the thousands of young people who want to play soccer, and
2. the tireless work of the thousands of volunteers that have made it all possible.

The primary objectives have been unchanged for many years. They are for young people to play football, develop their skills, and enjoy physical activity in a team environment. The Club has always maintained that all players should have the opportunity to play football. People from either gender, from any nationality, from any religion, from any disadvantaged background and from any ability level should all receive a fair go. The many Premierships and Trophies won by Concord JSC over the years serve as testament to the success of such a philosophy.

Even from the earliest times Committee members worked tirelessly and selflessly for the good of the Club. Volunteers continue to devote much of their weekends and evenings to ensuring that there are adequate facilities and resources for all players. Volunteers could never be in over-supply and will always be needed to help complete the multitude of tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of sixty teams each season.

One challenge that will need to be faced almost immediately by Concord JSC will be the continued implementation of the Small-Sided Game strategy. Substantial re-organization of current procedures and match arrangements will be required by all clubs to facilitate the smooth introduction for our youngest age-groups.

As well, the Club will need to work very closely with the City of Canada Bay Council to ensure that the current amenities block is replaced with a proper facility that caters for the thousands of visitors to the park each weekend. Current services are, at present, well-below community expectations.

In 2008 the future seems very bright for football in Australia. Expectations are high. With the undoubted success of the local A-League competition, the huge numbers of youngsters participating in the sport at weekends and the large numbers of Australian-born players now playing overseas the sport of football may finally arrive as the nations premier sport. The general public had great pleasure riding the wave of emotion and adventure that accompanied the Socceroos triumphs in the 2006 World Cup. The public support for football was clearly evidenced during that time and will certainly be forthcoming again if the sport is promoted in the proper manner. For over half a century now, it has been clubs like Concord JSC that have served as a vehicle for the participation of Australian youth in this great game we now call Football.

Under 13 – 2007

Notes

Thank you for being part of this special occasion